

WHAT'S *New*



in the Metropolitan Police Department

*A weekly update for residents, visitors, and
workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, May 19, 2006

OPERATION FOUL PLAY: MPDC – WPGC 95.5-FM TEAM UP TO COMBAT VIOLENCE IN DC

Beginning this month, the MPDC has teamed up with WPGC 95.5-FM to launch a new program designed to combat violent crime in DC and bring offenders to justice. “Operation Foul Play” is a weekly on-air radio segment designed to heighten public awareness about a particular crime or criminal suspect, and to encourage listeners to contact the police with tips on the case. Every Monday afternoon, Seventh District Sergeant Andre Wright joins DJ Adimu to profile a new criminal case on the air. Anyone with information about the profiled case – or any other crime that has occurred in the District of Columbia – is encouraged to contact the MPDC. The standing rewards in criminal cases – up to \$25,000 for homicides, up to \$5,000 for robberies and up to \$1,000 for other serious crimes – will be emphasized as well. In conjunction with the radio segment, the MPDC each week will post a new flyer on the featured case to a special “Operation Foul Play” page on the MPDC website. The first case profiled was the March 2005 fatal shooting of 9-year-old Donte Manning outside his apartment building on 13th Street, NW. The next segment highlights murder suspect Saquawn Harris, wanted in a May 4 homicide on 22nd Street, SE. The theme of Operation Foul Play is “the game doesn’t have to be played that way.”

① View the Operation Foul Play page and look up the featured cases by going to:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1243,q,559982,mpdcNav_GID,1533,mpdcNav,.asp

① View flyers on unsolved homicides from recent years and dating back to the early 1970s by visiting:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1243,q,541992,mpdcNav_GID,1533.asp

① For a run-down of MPDC reward programs, go to:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1243,q,560024,mpdcNav_GID,1533.asp

AS 2006 “CLICK IT OR TICKET” CAMPAIGN BEGINS, NEW RESEARCH SHOWS MANY STILL NOT BUCKLING UP

Despite the highest safety belt-use rate ever recorded in the US, an estimated 48 million Americans still fail to buckle up, according to a recently released report by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). The report, titled “Research Note: Restraint Use Patterns Among Fatally Injured Passenger Vehicle Occupants,” found the last of the unbuckled to be largely young and male, likely to live in rural areas and/or drive pickup trucks. The release of the new report coincides with the national “Click It or Ticket” crackdown on belt law violators, which runs from May 22 through June 4. The MPDC is once again joining with other law enforcement and transportation agencies in the region in supporting this year’s “Click It or Ticket” efforts. The law enforcement effort is supported by more than \$31 million in national and state ads that have already begun airing. The national ads, produced by NHTSA in English and Spanish, feature vehicles including pickup trucks driven in several regions of the country, with unbelted vehicle occupants receiving tickets, and then buckling up. They are being aired in media most frequently watched or listened to by males ages 18 to 34 and others in the target audience. New NHTSA research provides a detailed, state-by-state profile of the people who still don’t buckle up. Nationally, the number is 18 percent, but it varies by state. In DC, the seat belt usage rate was just shy of 89 percent in 2005, up from less than 80 percent in 1998.

① For complete information about “Click It or Ticket,” including links to the latest public service ads and research, visit:
<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov>

① DC has some of the strongest seat belt and child safety seat laws in the country, with fines and points associated with infractions. Learn more about DC’s laws and the MPDC’s support of “Click It or Ticket” at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,q,547844,mpdcNav_GID,1552,mpdcNav,.asp

CHIEF RAMSEY PRESENTS POSTHUMOUS HONORS TO RESERVE SERGEANT JOSEPH POZELL

Joseph Pozell was an incredibly hard-working, dedicated and beloved member of the MPDC Reserve Corps. In addition to being a fixture at the busy intersection of Wisconsin Avenue and M Street, NW, where he frequently directed traffic, Joe also went on foot patrols, helped to staff sobriety checkpoints and engaged in other law enforcement activities as a volunteer in the Second District. One year ago, Pozell was struck by vehicle while he was directing traffic, and he died two days later. This past week, the Washington, DC area law enforcement community came together to honor Pozell and three other officers who died in the performance of duty during 2005. Chief Ramsey used the occasion of the 27th Annual Memorial Service to bestow two posthumous honors on Joseph Pozell. First, the Chief elevated him to a "Level I" Reserve, the higher of the two categories of volunteer officers. Second, Ramsey promoted Pozell to the rank of Reserve Sergeant, in honor of his outstanding service and dedication to the MPDC and the community. Pozell was the first member of the MPDC Reserve Corps to die in the performance of duty. He is one of about three dozen Reserve or Auxiliary officers nationwide who are enshrined in the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Judiciary Square.

SAFETY TIPS FOR RUNNERS, WALKERS AND BICYCLISTS

With the weather warming up, more and more people are hitting the streets of DC to run, walk or cycle. The MPDC encourages everyone who exercises outdoors to follow some common-sense safety tips. Before you head out, plan your outing, and always try tell a family member or friend where you are going and when you will return. Carry a cell phone, or know where telephones are located along your route. Carry identification, or, alternatively, write your name, phone number and blood type on the inside of your athletic shoe. Include any important medical information. Once you're on the road, stay alert at all times. If possible, run, walk or bike with a partner or a dog. While headphones are extremely popular, police advise not to wear them, because you might not hear an approaching car or attacker. Exercise in familiar areas, and know which businesses or stores are open. Vary your route: that way, a potential attacker won't get to know your routine. Avoid unpopulated areas, deserted streets, overgrown trails or poorly lit areas at night. And always be careful if someone in a car asks you for directions; if you do stop to answer, keep at least a full arm's length from the car. And always trust your instincts about a person or an area: if you are unsure or feel unsafe, leave immediately.

NEWS & NOTES

Joseph K. Smith Dinner for Camp Brown. The Joseph K. Smith Memorial Summer Camp Fund, under the direction of the Chief's Citizen Advisory Council (CAC), is holding its annual Camp Brown Dinner on Friday, June 2, from 6:30-10 pm, at the Washington Navy Yard, Anacostia Banquet Room (8th and M Streets, SE). Tickets for the dinner are \$40 each; even if you can't make the dinner, donations are accepted. This year's dinner will feature several speakers who have attended Camp Brown and then gone on to do great things. For tickets to the dinner, or to make a donation, make checks payable to the "Joseph K. Smith Memorial Summer Camp Fund," care of George W. Fenderson, 202 Varnum Street, NW, Washington, DC, 20011. For more information or to support this youth crime prevention effort, contact CAC member Stanley J. Mayes, Treasurer, at (202) 772-3217.

Prom Safety. DC Attorney General Robert J. Spagnoletti has teamed up with the Century Council to offer parents a novel way to remind their teenagers not to drink and drive on prom night: "Send a Text Message." Parents can log on to the Century Council's website and register the cell phone number of their children and the date of the prom. During the prom, teens will receive a message, "Have fun 2night. Stay safe. Don't drink. We care." To sign up for the program, visit <http://www.centurycouncil.org/promtext/index.php>.

① Read more about Reserve Sergeant Joseph Pozell at:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1233,q,556972.asp>

① The other fallen officers honored during the DC —area memorial service were MPDC Officer James McBride, Pentagon Police Officer James Feltis III, and Sergeant Steven Gaughan of the Prince George's County Police Department.

① For a complete list of safety tips, including advice on exercising when you're away from home, go to:

http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,547788,mpdcNav_GID,1551.asp

① Get a wide range of "Street Smart" safety tips by clicking on:

http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,547809,mpdcNav_GID,1547,asp

① Free emergency cell phones for calling 9-1-1 are available through the "Secure the Call" program. Details at:

http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1238,q,542209,mpdcNav_GID,1558.asp

DATA BOX

Homicides as of 5/19/06
◆ 2006: 56
◆ 2005: 63
◆ % Change: -11.1%
◆ Closure Rate: 50.0% (28 closures)

Adult Arrests week end. 5/13/06
◆ Total: 929
◆ Weapons: 26
◆ Robbery: 9
◆ Auto Theft: 22
◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 46
◆ Narcotics: 156

Juvenile Activity week end. 5/13/06
◆ Arrests: 61
◆ Curfew Violators: 61
◆ Truants: 136

Firearm Recoveries as of 5/17/06
◆ May: 99
◆ 2006 Total: 915

Traffic Fatalities as of 5/19/06
◆ 2006: 21
◆ 2005: 20
◆ % Change: +5.0%

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with Crime-reports.com.

mpdc.dc.gov